

Premises 10/19

MLP CHRISTMAS SPECIAL

It is the night of the Winter Solstice and all of Ponyville has gathered together to celebrate "Hearth Warming's Eve". On this most special of all Equestrian holidays, the three kinds of ponies celebrate their unity by staying together all night long. Each town gathers together inside their Town Hall. They huddle by three large hearths, exchange symbolic gifts and put on play reenacting the founding of Equestria.

This year, Twilight and her five friends all have key roles in the performance. As the play gets under way, we transition from the acted version of events to the actual events as they unfolded hundreds of years ago. (With our stars still in the 'role' of these historical figures ala "Mickey's Christmas Carol".) In the past, Unicorn, Pegasus and Earth Pony were divided with each 'tribe' suspicious and hostile towards the others. They lived apart and 'traded' their skill for magic, growing plants and controlling weather begrudgingly. Life was hard but manageable.

Until the Great Blizzard descended on the land. The Pegasus had no control over this unending winter storm. (Though the Unicorn and Earth Ponies suspected otherwise.) It threatened all three tribes and each sent out two scouts to look for a new home where the Great Blizzard could not reach.

These six scouts (played by our six friends) discovered a beautiful land with lush grasslands and majestic mountains. But as each set of scouts discovers the *other* two sets of scouts, the same bickering and suspicions start up again. And the Great Blizzard catches up with them as well! As snow overwhelms this new land, the six are forced to seek shelter together. On the coldest, longest night of the year, they take an emotional journey together. They discover that the source of the Great Blizzard has to do with their own intolerance towards each other. The accumulated negative energy of the pony tribes has attracted a band of Windigos, magical winter spirits that feed off of 'cold-hearted' creatures. The six overcome their own prejudices towards each other, melting their hardened hearts. The Windigos retreat. And the first Element of Harmony appears-Generosity.

The next morning dawns glorious and warm and the six scouts set out to take the message of unity back to the rest of the ponies. This warm-hearted climax is ruined when they are suddenly covered with snow. We transition back to the play to discover that a large gust of wind has blown open a Town Hall window and blanketed the stage with

snow. Unicorns and Earth Ponies blame the Pegasus and everypony starts to bicker but they are all silenced by a strange howling wind that sounds like the Windigos from the story. They quickly make up and huddle together by the fires.

MAGIC DUEL

The Great and Powerful Trixie returns to Ponyville and publicly challenges Twilight to a Magic Duel. Twilight is uninterested until Trixie displays some real magical ability and uses it to cause trouble for Twilight's friends and all of Ponyville. Twilight is sure she can best the blowhard Trixie easily. She is over confident, in fact, and spends no time practicing for the showdown. She loses. Big Time. She tries to be a gracious loser but Trixie is anything but a gracious winner. She reveals the key to her success: a rare amulet that amplifies a unicorn's magical power. Twilight is familiar with this relic. It may enhance a unicorn's power but it also corrupts its user. She tries to explain the danger to Trixie but all her rival wants to do is gloat. She challenges Trixie to a rematch with the amulet as the prize.

Twilight is taking things seriously this time and hits the books hard, trying to learn as much new magic as possible before she has to face Trixie again. All of her friends do their best to support her and her training except for Rainbow Dash. She scoffs at the idea that you train for a duel by reading. Twilight doesn't take RD's criticism to heart since the Pegasus knows absolutely nothing about magic. But Rainbow Dash issues a challenge of her own-she bets she can best Twilight in a Magic Duel with that same 'nothing' she knows about magic. The mock duel goes poorly for Twilight. Rainbow Dash is too quick to get hit by the sluggish spells she throws at her. Twilight can hardly keep track of her opponent, as she has to constantly look back at her spell books to cast the new spells she's just learned. Dash easily wins by turning one of Twilight's spells against her when she's not looking. Twilight expects that she will now have to deal with Rainbow Dash's gloating as well as Trixie's.

But her friend wasn't going for bragging rights. She wanted to illustrate a point. Twilight is easily the greater magician, but if she wants to wield more power than Trixie she needs to practice what she has learned. Twilight puts herself in Rainbow's hooves and is put through a Rocky-esque training program. When the rematch comes, Twilight decimates Trixie with her new physical prowess and increased power. She thanks RD for teaching her that 'book learning' is pointless without the ability to put that learning into practice.

READING RAINBOW

Rainbow Dash prides herself on being a 'pony of action' and hasn't got time for 'egg head' activities like reading. But when RD injures herself attempting yet another new stunt, she's got nothing but time on her hooves. The others visit her in the hospital and while there, Twilight spots one of her favorite fiction adventure series on the book cart. RD scoffs at Twi's reading suggestion but after visiting hours are over and the hours alone accumulate, she's bored enough to give reading a try. Soon she is hooked. She devours the first book and by the end of the week she has made it through 6 of the 7 books in the adventure series. The only time she isn't reading is when her friends come to visit. She plans to finish the series without any of them ever finding out about her bookworm secret.

But Rainbow Dash's plans go awry when she is released earlier than expected and before she can finish the last book! She scours Ponyville for another copy but the only one she can find is Twilight's. Rainbow can't bring herself to swallow her pride and admit the truth. She tries to worm the ending of the series out of Twilight instead, but she isn't very slick and Twilight starts to get suspicious. Rainbow abandons this tactic and starts to fake injuries to get back into the hospital so she can finish her reading in secret. But the doctors don't buy any of her faked accidents. She visits strange ponies in the hospital and tries to bribe them to read the story to her. Finally she hides under somepony's bed till lights out and tries to read the ending by moonlight. But some delusional pony with a head injury thinks she's an intruder and after being chased all over town by the orderlies, Rainbow is cornered and forced to confess the truth. She LOVES TO READ! She apologizes to Twilight for making fun of her. She shouldn't knock something before trying it.

Rather than rubbing it in, Twilight couldn't be more pleased that her friend has discovered the joys of reading. She gladly lends Rainbow Dash the last book in the series and has several other titles to recommend. Including a very helpful How To on Aerial Acrobatics. As the books pile up on Rainbow's cloud, she rolls her eyes and chuckles at her well-meaning friend.